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**REPORT TO: COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE ON 5 FEBRUARY 2019**

**SUBJECT: CONSULTATIVE DRAFT LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY 2019-24**

**BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE)**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 This report advises the Committee on the progress made in the development of the Council's next Local Housing Strategy (LHS) covering the period 2019-24.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section G (11) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to the formulation and implementation of the Council's strategic Housing Plan.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 **it is recommended that the Communities Committee:-**
- (i) comments on the consultative draft outline LHS (APPENDIX I);**
  - (ii) comments on the draft LHS Equality Impact Assessment (APPENDIX II);**
  - (iii) agrees to a period of public consultation on the full consultative draft from 6 February to 15 March 2019; and**
  - (iv) notes that the final LHS will be presented to the Committee on 2 April 2019, for agreement, prior to publication.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 requires local authorities to produce a Local Housing Strategy (LHS) supported by an assessment of housing need and demand.

3.2 On 1 May 2018, the Communities Committee was advised of the “robust and credible” status of the Housing Need and Demand Assessment 2017 (HNDA). (paragraph 5 of the Minute refers).

3.3 On 19 June 2018, the Planning and Regulatory Services Committee considered the HNDA 2017 findings and their implications for the Moray Local Development Plan 2020 (paragraph 8 of the Minute refers).

#### 4. **CONSULTATIVE DRAFT LHS 2019-2024**

4.1 An Outline Consultative Draft LHS is available at **APPENDIX I** (8 pages). The Outline Draft LHS is an abbreviated version of the full Consultative Draft at approximately 65 pages plus Appendices. It is intended that the Outline Draft should form the basis of an easy-read version for public consultation purposes. The full Consultative Draft LHS is available in the Committee Management Information system at <https://moray.cmis.uk.com/moray/CouncilandGovernance/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/368/Committee/10/Default.aspx>. Both documents include a range of actions intended to be taken forward by the Council and its partners during the term of the LHS, to achieve its outcomes.

4.2 The draft LHS sets out how the Council and its partners intend to alleviate housing need, address homelessness and improve the housing system. The LHS actions range from building more new affordable houses of the right type and in the right location, to reducing fuel poverty, improving the condition of housing and alleviating homelessness. The draft LHS priorities are:

Priority 1: Improve access to housing in all tenures and alleviate housing need

Priority 2: Prevent and alleviate homelessness

Priority 3: Assist people requiring specialist housing

Priority 4: Improve the condition and energy efficiency of housing, and minimise fuel poverty

4.3 A draft LHS Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been prepared, using the HNDA 2017 as its evidence base. The draft LHS EIA is available at **APPENDIX II**.

#### 4.4 **Public and stakeholder consultation arrangements**

4.4.1 A period of public consultation is proposed, from 6 February to 15 March 2019. Officers propose the use of web-based surveys and the Council’s social media as the primary means of interaction with the general public. Officers propose that the web-based survey takes the form of a series of questions seeking approval ratings on the actions proposed in the draft LHS, with the facility to provide text/comments.

4.4.2 The development of the LHS is overseen by the multi-agency, officer level, Housing Strategy Group. This group includes representatives from the relevant Council Services and other agencies e.g. Planning, Health and Social Care Moray, NHS Grampian, Registered Social Landlords (RSLs), Scottish

Government enterprise companies, private sector representative bodies and Third Sector Representatives. Housing Strategy Group will be a key consultation body as the LHS develops.

#### **4.5 Finalising the LHS**

4.5.1 The final draft of the LHS will be presented to the Communities Committee on 2 April 2019 for approval prior to publication. The report in April will present the results of the public consultation.

### **5. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

#### **(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))**

The Moray Council's priorities for National Outcome 10 of the Single Outcome agreement include:

- The volume and quality of housing throughout Moray will increase.
- People assessed as homeless will be provided appropriate accommodation.

The Local Housing Strategy will focus on a set of outcomes that contribute to the achievement of Single Outcome Agreement priorities.

#### **(b) Policy and Legal**

It is a requirement of the 2001 Housing (Scotland) Act that local authorities have a Local Housing Strategy. Detailed guidance has been produced by the Scottish Government.

#### **(c) Financial implications**

There are no direct resourcing implications associated with this report.

#### **(d) Risk Implications**

There are no risk implications arising directly from this report.

#### **(e) Staffing Implications**

There are no staffing implications arising directly from this report.

#### **(f) Property**

There are no property requirements/implications arising directly from this report.

#### **(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact**

It is a statutory requirement that equality issues should be addressed in the LHS. The LHS includes strong themes on economic disadvantage and inequality. Data and evidence about the specialist housing and support needs of equalities groups has been gathered as part of the Council's Housing Need and Demand Assessment 2017. The LHS will set out how the Council intends

to address these needs. Officers have prepared a draft LHS Equalities Impact Assessment which will form part of the public consultation. Equality groups will be included in the LHS consultation.

**(h) Consultations**

Consultation on this report has taken place with the Head of Housing and Property, Head of Environmental Services, Gary Templeton (Principal Planning Officer), the Head of Community Care, Head of Health and Social Care Moray, Deborah O'Shea (Principal Accountant), Legal Services Manager (Property and Contracts), Corporate Policy Unit Manager, the Community Planning and Development Manager, Equal Opportunities Officer, and senior managers within Housing and Property Services.

**6. CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 This report provides the Communities Committee with details of progress made in the development of the Local Housing Strategy 2019 – 2024. The report provides details of the proposed consultation and implementation arrangements for the draft LHS.**

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Background Papers: Held by author

Ref: FG